Director of Central Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

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# Soviet Capabilities for Strategic Nuclear Conflict Through the Late 1980s

National Intelligence Estimate
Volume I—The Estimate

Contains charts found on pages 8, 12, 14, & 16.

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16 January 1979

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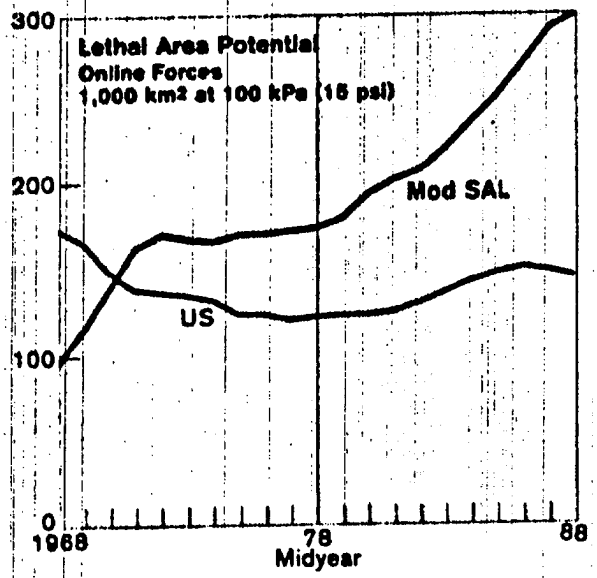
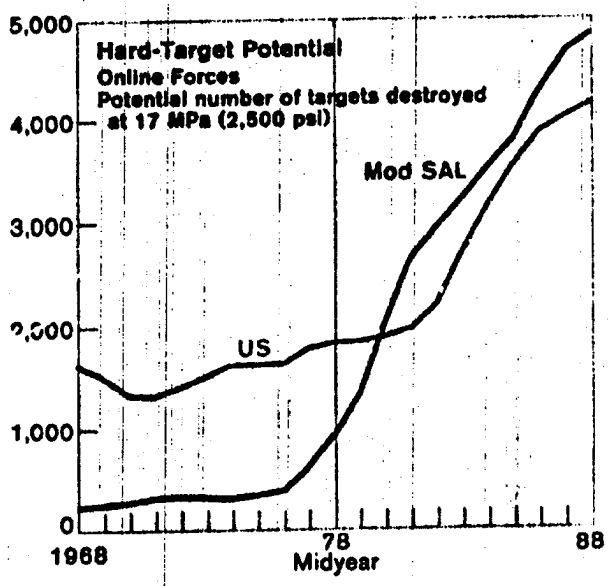
## Theoretical Destructive Potential of Soviet and US Forces for Intercontinental Attack, 1968–88

Chart 2

**Soviet Mod SAL Force; US SALT-Limited Force**




Estimated total urban area (in km2):
Soviet Union–40,000
United States–100,000




Estimated number of hardened ICBM silos and launch control centers:
Soviet Union–1,400-1,600
United States–1,100-1,200

In addition, there are hundreds of somewhat less hardened targets in the USSR, but only a few in the United States.

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## Soviet and US Residual Forces: Lethal Area Potential, 1978–88

Chart 4

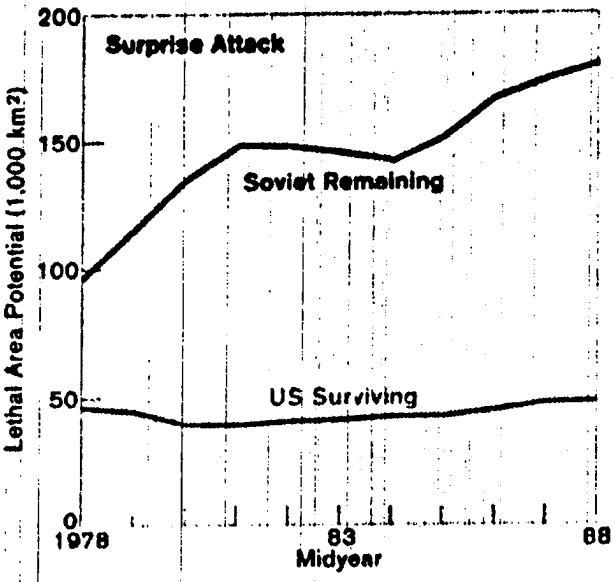
**Potential Lethal Area of Online Missile RVs and Bomber Weapons of Soviet Mod SAL and US SALT-Limited Forces for Intercontinental Attack.**

**In Thousands of Square Kilometers in Which Weapons Would Subject Targets to Overpressure of at Least 100 Kilopascals (15 pounds per square inch).**

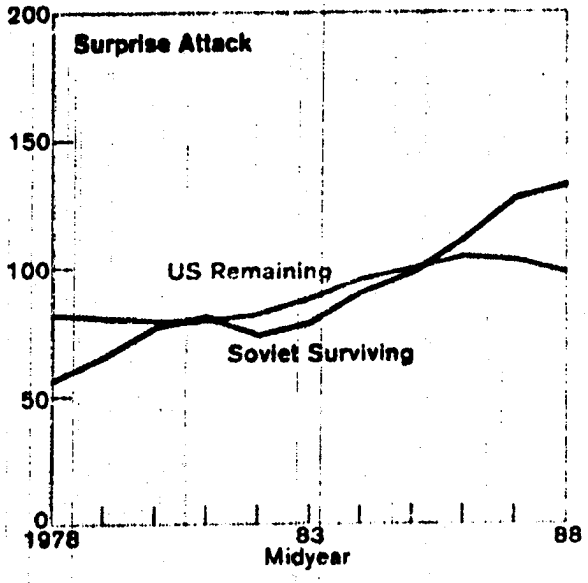
**The lines represent the effects on the residuals of each side if the attacking side employs two-on-one cross targeting of ICBMs against the opponent's ICBM silos.**

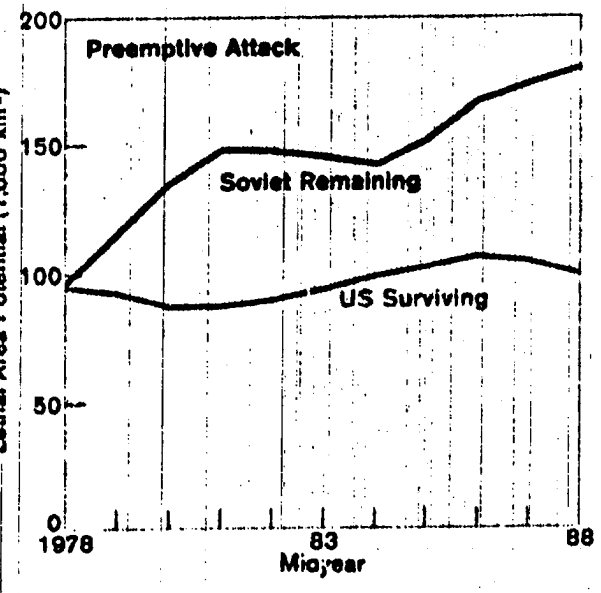
**Surprise Attack: Only attacking side generated.**
**Preemptive Attack: Both sides generated.**

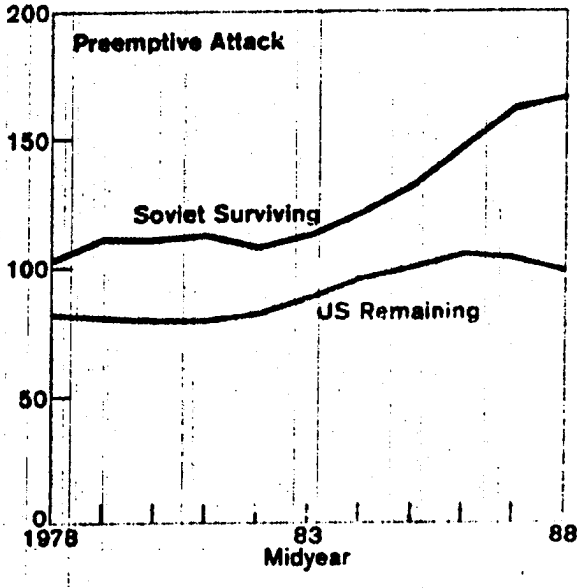
### USSR Strikes First




### United States Strikes First



## Soviet and US Residual Forces: Hard-Target Potential, 1978–88

Chart 5

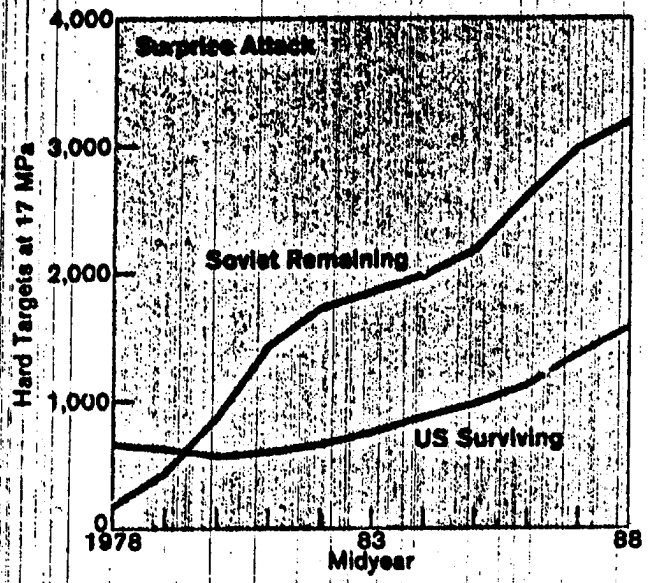
Potential Number of Targets Destroyed by Online Missile RVs and Bomber Weapons of Soviet Mod SAL and US SALT-Limited Forces for Intercontinental Attack.

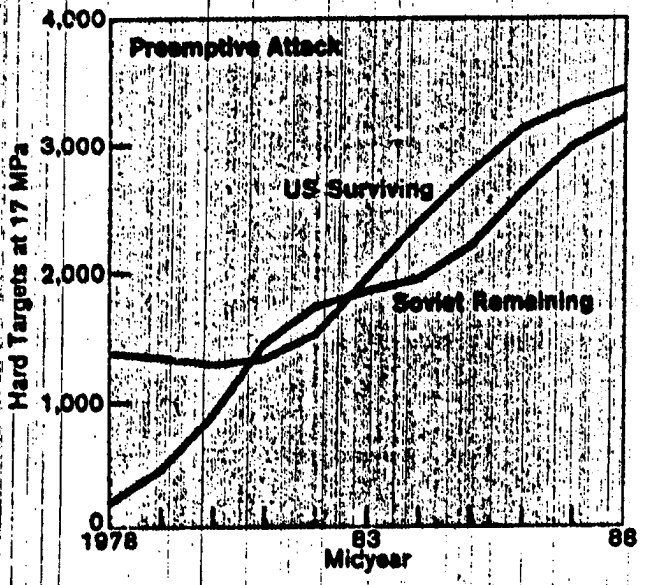
Targets Assumed Hardened To Withstand Overpressure of 17 Megapascals (2,500 pounds per square inch).

The lines represent the effects on the residuals of each side if the attacking side employs two-on-one cross targeting of ICBMs against the opponent's ICBM silos.

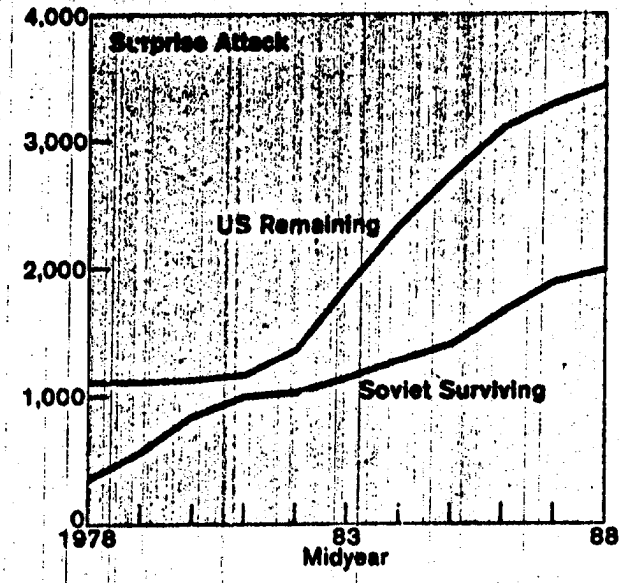
Surprise Attack: Only attacking side generated.
Preemptive Attack: Both sides generated.

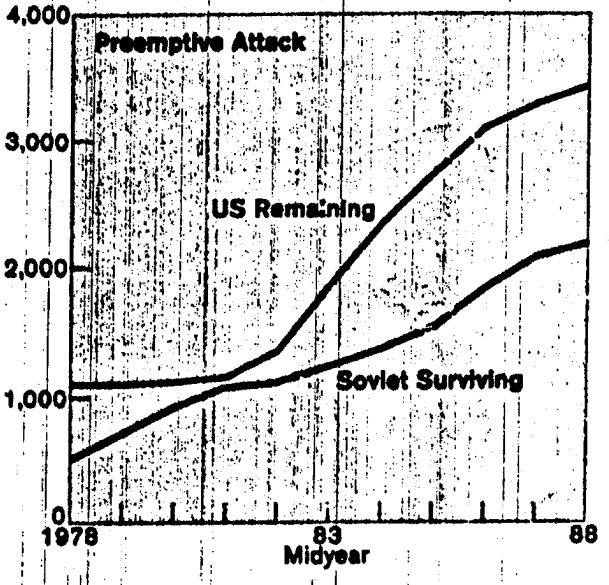
### USSR Strikes First




### United States Strikes First



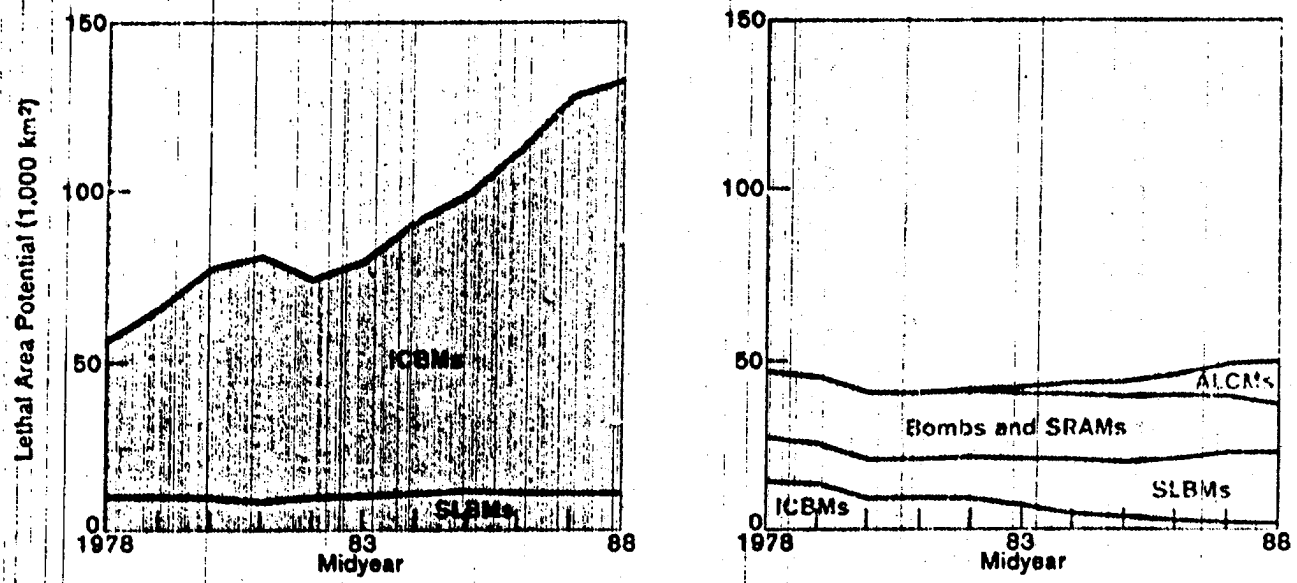
## Composition of Soviet and US Residual Potentials Following Surprise Attack, 1978–88

Chart 6

**By ICBMs of US SALT-Limited Force Against Soviet Mod SAL Force**

**By ICBMs of Soviet Mod SAL Force Against US SALT-Limited Force**

### Lethal Area Potential




### Hard-Target Potential